

STAMP-DUTY.

Abstract of the last Act of Parliament, respecting the Stamp-Duty on Inland Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, &c. With the Laws and Form of Notes under Five Pounds.

*510.2.6
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THE Legislature having thought it necessary to pass into a Law, an Act to charge a Duty upon all Inland Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, or other Notes, payable otherwise than on Demand, according to the Value of the same, as therein specified; the Utility of making the same as public and as general as possible, must be obvious to every Man concerned in Business or Commerce.

The whole Trading Part of this Kingdom, as well as private Persons, are interested in this Duty; therefore it is incumbent upon every one, not only to be fully acquainted with the Tenor of the Act, but likewise to be in Possession of the Heads of each Clause, which may at all Times be immediately referred to, that they may not err through Ignorance or Inattention; it being well known, from the usual Channel of Intelligence which is conveyed to the extensive Public, concerning all Acts of the Legislature, that many Thousands may offend against Statutes, which they do not know to be existing.

The Safety of Individuals is more particularly consulted in this Publication, as those who receive Bills or Notes in the settling of Accounts, drawn at a distant Period, &c. may by Inadvertency endanger their Property; for no Bills, Notes, &c. will now be deemed valid, unless they are drawn upon Parchment, Vellum or Paper, stamped, in Conformity to the Directions in the Abstracts following:

Abstract of an Act, 22 Geo. 3. for charging a STAMP DUTY upon all Inland Bills of Exchange, Promissory or other Notes, payable otherwise than upon Demand, which Enacts,

"That from the First Day of August, 1782, for every Inland Bill of Exchange, Promissory Note, or other Note, payable otherwise than on Demand, where the Sum expressed does not amount to Fifty Pounds, a Duty of Three-pence is charged upon every such Bill, or Note."

"And for any Inland Bill of Exchange, Promissory Note, &c. in the same manner as the before-mentioned, drawn for any Sum amounting to Fifty Pounds, or upwards, a Duty of Six-pence is charged upon every such Bill, &c."

These Duties to be under the Management of the Commissioners of the Stamp-Duties.

All such Bills and Notes as above, not properly stamped, to be deemed *Invalid*, and not recoverable in any Court of Law.

Any Quantity of Stamps to be had at the Stamp-Office, the Parties wanting the same carrying the Paper, and first paying the Duty.

The Provisions, Penalties, &c. prescribed or inflicted by former Acts relating to Stamp-Duties, are to be in Force in Execution of this Act.

Persons sued in Execution of this Act may plead the general Issue, and treble Costs will be awarded against the Plaintiff.

The following Heads of an Act of Parliament, recently passed, which seem to be little known and less understood, amongst the Generality of the People, deserve the most serious Attention of the Public, as otherwise Numbers might be led into Errors and Penalties, without having the most distant Idea of being in the least Danger of offending against the Laws.

ABSTRACT of the Act of 17th Geo. 3. relative to Promissory or other Notes, Bills of Exchange, or Notes, &c. of above the Value of Twenty Shillings, and under Five Pounds,

Which Enacts, That all Promissory or other Notes, Bills of Exchange, &c. being negotiable or transferrable for the Payment of Twenty Shillings, or for any Sum of Money above that Sum and less than Five Pounds, which shall be issued in that Part of Great-Britain, called England, at any Time after the First of January, 1778, shall specify the Names and Places of Abode of the Persons respectively to whom, or to whose Order, the same shall be made payable, and shall bear Date before or at the Time of drawing or issuing thereof, and not on any Day subsequent thereto; and shall be made payable within Twenty-one Days after the Day of the Date thereof; and shall not be transferrable or negotiable after the Time thereby limited for the Payment thereof; and that every Indorsement to be made thereon shall be made before the Expiration of the Time, and to bear Date at or before the Time of making thereof; and shall specify the Name and Place of Abode, of the Person or Persons to whom, or to whose Order, the Money contained in such Note, Bill, &c. is to be paid; and that the signing every such Note, Bill, Draught, &c. and also of every such Indorsement, shall be attested by

one subscribing Witness at the least, otherwise the same are declared to be absolutely void; any Law, Statute, Usage or Custom, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

*22 Geo. III. Bill
Act, c. 33*

It is further Enacted, that the publishing, uttering, or negotiating any Promissory or other Note, Bill of Exchange, &c. being negotiable for Twenty Shillings, or above that Sum and less than Five Pounds, or on which Twenty Shillings, or above that Sum and less than Five Pounds, shall be issued or made in any other Manner, than Notes, Bills, Draughts, &c. hereby permitted to be published or negotiated as aforesaid; every Person offending herein, shall forfeit for every such Offence, any Sum not exceeding 20 l. nor less than 5 l.

Form of a Note agreeable to the last-mentioned Act.

Place Day Month Year
of
Twenty-one days after date, I promise to pay to
Place Sum
A. B. of — or his order, the sum of —
for value received by C. D.
Witness,
E. F.

And the Indorsement.

Day Month Year
of
Pay the contents to
Place
G. H. of —
or his order.
Witness,
J. K. A. B.

Form of a Bill of Exchange, agreeable to the above-mentioned Act.

Place Day Month Year
of
Twenty-one days after date, pay to A. B. of —
Place
or his order, the sum of — value received
as advised by C. D.
To E. F. of —
Witness,
G. H.

And the Indorsement.

Day Month Year
of
Pay the contents to
J. K. of —
or his order.
Witness L. M. A. B.

As new Acts of Parliament are quickly passed by and forgotten, leaving only in the Memory a few certain Traces that such Laws have passed, and as these Laws are by many not sufficiently understood; the Publisher, at the Request of several Merchants and Tradesmen of Eminence, who have recommended this Mode as extremely useful, and a Safeguard to prevent the Unwary Tradesman from being taken in, offers it to the Public in its present Form in one View, which may serve to be stuck up in Merchants Counting Houses, Public Offices, &c. or be carried with great Conveniency in the Pocket.